

BYRNE FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM
FY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 226 grants receiving Byrne Formula funds were active during all or part of the July 1, 2002 through June 30 period covered by this report. Formula funds from three federal fiscal year awards to Virginia were used to make these grants. They supported projects throughout the criminal justice system, from enhancements to state and local law enforcement and prosecution, to improved drug treatment for adult and juvenile offenders, community crime prevention, school safety, information systems improvements and violence prevention. Among the services provided:

- middle and high schools in 70 localities throughout the state were provided with School Resource Officers;
- drug court programs were funded in nine cities;
- substance abuse specialists were placed in 16 juvenile court services units across the state to coordinate the provision of screening, assessment and drug abuse treatment for juveniles;
- provision of pre- and post-release transition services—for example, release plans, job placement and employment counseling, housing assistance—to offenders and ex-offenders;
- crime prevention training for law enforcement officers and others through law enforcement training academies and statewide conferences;
- improvements in criminal history records systems in localities throughout the state, including Incident-Based Reporting (IBR) upgrades, better interfaces with state systems and enhanced regional data sharing;
- development and delivery of homeland defense/first responder training for law enforcement officers and dispatchers.

Additionally, the Formula grant program has served as a catalyst for improved cooperation and coordination among criminal justice agencies and between criminal justice agencies and other officials. For example, Formula funds supported regional and local criminal justice planning and, through school resource officer grants, fostered the development of cooperative relationships between local school systems and their localities' law enforcement agencies on issues related to school safety.

INTRODUCTION

Responsibility for administering Byrne Formula funds in Virginia rests with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the same agency that administers federal funds available to Virginia from the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, the Victims of Crime Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program.

The Department also administers state funds appropriated for community corrections and pre-trial services, victim-witness assistance, sexual assault and domestic violence programs, law enforcement training and court appointed special advocate (CASA) programs.

The Department is thus in a position to assure full coordination among the various grant programs and make the most effective use of the available resources

This report covers state fiscal year 2003, the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. There were 226 Byrne-funded grants active during all or part of that period, receiving just Formula funds from awards to Virginia for federal fiscal years 2000, 2001 and 2002. Approximately 46% of the funds were awarded to state agencies, and 54% were awarded to localities.

The dollar amounts shown in the report represent federal funds only and do not include the cash matching amounts provided by local governments or the state.

OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

All applicants for Byrne funds are required to include in their proposals plans for evaluating their projects if funds are awarded. Applicants must provide measurable project objectives and describe how their progress toward meeting the objectives will be measured and reported to DCJS, specifying the types of data and information to be collected and reported. Grant recipients are required to report this information to DCJS quarterly; and it is used in decision making by the DCJS staff and the Criminal Justice Services Board.

SUMMARY OF FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS

Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships

Program Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to establish or enhance multi-disciplinary partnerships that will increase the sharing of knowledge and resources, increase citizen awareness of the benefits of community-oriented justice, and address public safety issues and concerns.

Projects/Sites and Funding

Twenty-six projects were funded during the reporting period, supported by \$1,798,930 in Byrne Formula funds; 24 of the projects were at the local level, two in state agencies.

Accomplishments

Funds awarded through this program enabled five localities to initiate criminal justice planning and coordination efforts on either a local or regional basis, aimed at improving local/regional decision-making with respect to criminal justice issues and needs, and identifying available resources. The planners funded through these grants provide support to the local Community Criminal Justice Boards (CCJB), the local community corrections planning group which represent all aspects of local criminal justice systems.

Eight cities and one county used grant funds to operate Virginia Exile programs, which are focused on reducing gun violence. State law provides enhanced penalties for the use of a firearm in the commission of felonies, and bail restrictions for persons charged with these types of crimes. Formula funds enabled local prosecutors to add staff dedicated specifically to prosecuting firearms-related charges and to develop close coordination with law enforcement to improve detection and enforcement. During the reporting period, 147 convictions were obtained.

The Department of Corrections used Formula funds to support Project SOAR, which linked offenders in nine DoC facilities with mentors from the faith community. People from 34 houses of worship participated as mentors to over 170 inmates during the course of the reporting period.

Nine localities received funding to contract with private, non-profit organizations for offender re-entry services, including job placement assistance, counseling, and development of release plans. More than 4,000 offenders received pre- and/or post-release services.

The Virginia Alcohol Safety Action (VASAP) program used grant funds to enable 23 high schools on the Eastern Shore and in the City of Virginia Beach to develop and promote alcohol and drug free proms. The project also provided

training to 150 law enforcement officers in DUI detection.

Campbell County received funds to implement a day boot camp program for juveniles referred by school or parents, or ordered to attend by the juvenile court judge. Most of these students would otherwise have been expelled for 365 days. The project served an average of 20 juveniles in each of four classes during the reporting period.

Drug Abuse Treatment For Adult Drug Dependent Offenders

Program Goals and Objectives

This program provides drug treatment, vocational training, job counseling and educational equivalency programs to drug-dependent offenders in correctional facilities or under supervision. The program seeks to assist these offenders in developing drug-free lifestyles and acquiring the education and skills they will need to become productive members of society when they are released.

Projects/Sites and Funding

There were three projects funded during the reporting period within the state Department of Corrections. The Department received a total of \$2,138,776 for them. Additionally, nine local drug courts received \$615,081 in funding. The combined total of Byrne funds for these programs was \$2,753,857.

Accomplishments

The first Department of Corrections project focused on the western region of the state, a primarily rural area that traditionally has been under served. The project was in its third year of funding during this reporting period. Services were provided at 7 sites. Four are day reporting centers (DRCs), three of which have focused on dual diagnosed offenders facing re-incarceration or transitioning into the community and who have a history of substance abuse. Treatment services are provided on-site at the DRCs through memoranda of agreement (MOAs) between the DRCs and service providers. Additionally, services are provided at a detention center for probationers, a diversion center for probationers, and probation and parole districts. The programs at the detention and diversion centers focus on offenders housed in residential settings and the one at the district focuses on offenders experiencing addiction to oxycontin. Through this project, over 500 offenders have received services ranging from intensive out-patient treatment to residential treatment and including anger management, relapse prevention, mental health services, and psychiatric services. Drug testing is performed on-site through Syva-Dade Behring testing machines and hand-held instruments.

A second Department of Corrections project supported with Byrne funds is focused on the development and enhancement of residential transition treatment center (RTTC) beds for offenders with substance abuse problems who are returning to their communities. These beds are set up for offenders transitioning from therapeutic communities (housed in institutions) into the community. The services are provided by contractors at 3 sites (2 for males, 1 for females). Over 260 offenders were served during the reporting period.

In the third project, the Department of Corrections identified gaps in the delivery of substance abuse treatment services in probation and parole, and is using grant funds to target offenders in need of in-patient drug treatment, as well as outpatient and transitional services. The project provides treatment services, drug testing, training of staff, and evaluation. During the reporting period, the project served over 1,600 offenders, including providing residential treatment to 31.

Byrne funds also supported drug courts in nine localities: Newport News, Salem; Norfolk; Portsmouth; Richmond; Fredericksburg; Virginia Beach; Charlottesville; and Chesterfield County.

Statewide Training and Technical Assistance

Program Goals and Objectives

This program is intended to help state and local criminal justice agencies improve their ability to carry out their missions, and to address identified problems and needs.

Projects/Sites and Funding

Fifteen projects received \$1,709,137 in Formula funds during the reporting period.

Accomplishments

The state's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness used Formula funds to help localities and state agencies identify terrorist threats and begin the process of developing a statewide, multi-agency strategic plan with specific policy and legislative recommendations.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services used Formula funds to develop terrorism response training for law enforcement officers and dispatchers statewide. Five training schools were presented for officers from 32 localities across the state. Additionally, the Department produced quick reference cards for first responders and distributed 40,000 copies to law enforcement officers, jailers,

dispatchers and corrections officers.

Formula funds enabled the Virginia State Crime Commission, a legislative body, to conduct studies of the state's system of indigent defense and of the state's regulation of bail bondsmen. Both led to specific legislative recommendations which have been enacted into law.

At the local level, the City of Richmond received funding to analyze its juvenile delinquency services and case management. The City wanted to determine ways in which technology could be applied to track and improve services and help case workers, administrators and others work more effectively.

Fauquier County, which has seen an influx of Spanish speaking farm workers in recent years, used Byrne funds to provide Spanish language training to 24 probation & parole officers and 12 law enforcement officers, to enable them to give basic directions and orders to Hispanic persons who speak little or no English.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services, which houses the Center for School Safety, used Byrne Formula funds to provide school resource officers, school security officers, school administrators and others with basic and advanced training on school safety-related topics. Over 1,400 people were trained at 39 training sessions during the reporting period.

Six regional law enforcement training academies received funds to develop distance learning capabilities and provide specialized homeland defense and drug enforcement training.

Resources For At-Risk Youth

Program Goals and Objectives

This program seeks to encourage cooperation and information sharing among agencies that provide for the safety and well-being of youth. In addition, it aims to assist localities in the development of resources that identify and serve at-risk youth.

Project Sites and Funding

One grant for \$83,829 in Formula funds was awarded in this program category. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) distributed the funds to 26 local Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs, with each program's amount based on its caseload. CASA programs provide trained volunteers to work with and advocate for juveniles who come before juvenile courts in child

abuse and neglect cases. CASA programs are typically private, non-profit organizations and were not eligible to receive Byrne funds directly.

Accomplishments

Twenty-six local CASA programs in all areas of the state received supplemental funding through this grant. During the reporting period, they provided 1,100 trained volunteers who assisted nearly 4,000 children.

Substance Abuse Services for Juveniles

Program Goals and Objectives

This program category supports projects which identify and provide treatment for juvenile offenders and at-risk youth who have substance abuse problems that influence recidivism and lead to initial or deeper involvement with the juvenile justice system. The projects allow for the provision of substance abuse assessment, education and treatment within residential facilities and outpatient settings for juveniles and their families.

Project Sites and Funding

Two projects were funded, both in the state Department of Juvenile Justice. They received \$970,892 in Byrne formula funds.

Accomplishments

The Department of Juvenile Justice received funding for senior probation officers in 16 designated court service units to coordinate and conduct drug screening and assessments on selected juvenile offenders and provide other substance abuse related services. Grant funding also supports a program consultant in each region to oversee substance abuse screening and assessment activities and to provide clinical supervision for staff to meet substance abuse certification requirements. During the reporting period, a total of 494 substance abuse screenings were completed which resulted in 276 substance abuse assessments statewide.

An additional grant was awarded to the Department of Juvenile Justice for the purpose of providing a continuum of treatment services to the youth assessed by DJJ. Nearly 200 juveniles received treatment services.

Community Crime Prevention Services

Program Goals and Objectives

The Community Crime Prevention Services Program provides funding to enhance localities' efforts to establish new or enhance existing crime prevention programs in their communities. The program encourages agencies to focus on: the establishment of crime prevention units in local law enforcement agencies; the establishment of Neighborhood and Business Watch groups; the development of school and community-based crime and drug abuse prevention programs; the development of crime prevention training programs; multi-disciplinary research and planning on crime and crime prevention; and the incorporation of crime prevention planning into community planning.

Projects/Sites and Funding

The Department of Criminal Justice Services and two regional law enforcement training academies received a total of \$571,962 through this program during the reporting period.

Accomplishments

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) used Formula funds to provide 56 "mini-grants" to local TRIAD programs throughout Virginia. TRIAD is a partnership between Police Departments, Sheriff's Offices and agencies representing senior citizens. Their purpose is to develop and administer crime prevention programs for the elderly.

Additionally, using Formula funds, DCJS contracted with the Virginia Crime Prevention Association for the provision of training and technical assistance to localities. During the reporting period, the VCPA trained over 1,000 law enforcement officers and others in basic and specialized crime prevention topics.

DCJS also used Formula funds to maintain the Certified Crime Prevention Community Program. The goal of the program is to publicly recognize and certify localities that have implemented a carefully defined set of community safety strategies as part of a comprehensive community safety/crime prevention effort. To obtain certification, a locality must meet 12 core community safety elements/strategies, augmented by a minimum of seven approved optional elements. During the reporting period, the Cities of Hampton and Newport News, and Hanover County, achieved certification.

Two regional law enforcement training academies—Rappahannock and Central Shenandoah—used Formula funds to develop crime prevention training curricula for their officers. A total of 258 officers received training through 16 courses.

School Resource Officer Program

Program Goals and Objectives

The School Resource Officer Program promotes school safety by enabling localities throughout the state to assign school resource officers (SROs) to middle and high schools. SRO programs foster strong partnerships between schools and law-enforcement. They feature activities such as the collection and analysis of information on crimes occurring in the school setting, the development of policies and procedures to insure school safety and security, the identification of high-risk behavior associated with future criminal behavior within the school setting, developing community agency referral networks to reduce high risk behavior, teaching law-related education courses, and conducting school safety and security assessments with students as members of the assessment teams.

Projects/Sites and Funding

Seventy localities received \$2,601,556 in Formula funds.

Accomplishments

As a result of this funding, 90 school resource officers provided law enforcement and community-oriented policing services to high schools and middle schools. During this period, SROs responded to and reported over 4,000 offenses. Examples include larceny, fighting, assault, gang activity, bomb threats, and drugs. Although it is not possible to identify the exact number of crimes or incidents which may have been averted through the presence of an officer in the school, reports indicate that more than 2,500 problems were resolved before they became reportable violations.

Additionally, SROs provided training in topics like Class Action, Dare, safe driving, drug and alcohol education, school safety awareness and Virginia law.

Criminal History Records Improvement

Program Goals and Objectives

In accord with the state's approved records improvement plan, this program seeks to

enhance the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of Virginia's criminal history record system. It supports projects that develop or improve existing, computerized information systems and software interfaces to facilitate the electronic transfer of criminal history records to the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE). Programs enhance data quality, accessibility, timeliness of submissions, and provide tracking and monitoring capabilities essential to addressing submission and data quality problems.

Projects/Sites and Funding

Thirty-eight localities received funding, including five regional jails. Five state agencies received funding. Federal funds awarded totaled \$4,982,528.

Accomplishments:

Projects funded under this program focused upon automation of arrest processes and warrant files, upgrading Incident-Based Reporting (IBRS) systems, establishment of regional data sharing networks and databases, improving jail records management systems, and training in the use of these systems. State agency projects funded personnel to improve access to and integration of state automated records systems, provision of technical assistance in information systems and expanded use of video conferencing technology.